



# *Madison County Sheriff*

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## **2009 Budget Review & Impact**

**Background:** Madison County is not immune from the current financial crisis currently affecting business and governmental entities, as well as individuals and families across the nation. The County Commissioners are charged with the allocating funds for the operation of the county offices which are under the direction of elected officials. These officials provide the core basic services to our citizens as directed by the Ohio Revised Code.

The offices include:

Auditor	Clerk of Courts
Commissioners	Coroner
Courts of Common Pleas	Engineer
Municipal Court	Prosecutor
Recorder	Sheriff
Treasurer	

The commissioners must determine, on an individual and priority basis, the funds required to maintain services. Each official submits a budget request sufficient for the operation of his or her respective office. This request is considered by the Commissioners, who then establish the funding appropriation based upon what they deem adequate. Other departments, agencies, and organizations also receive funds at the Commissioners' discretion.

**Duties of the Sheriff:** The duties and responsibilities of the Sheriff are expansive and outlined in the Revised Code. They include: preserving public peace through law enforcement, custody and transporting of prisoners, executing all warrants, writs and other process of the courts, attending to the Courts of Common Pleas, and providing security. Other related duties are: monitoring sexual offender registration and compliance, concealed weapon licensing and assisting other county law enforcement agencies. The Madison County Sheriff also maintains numerous public education and safety programs for all ages, such as D.A.R.E., community watch and others.

Having been with the Sheriff's Office for the past 28 years, I believe I possess unique insight into and understanding of the local responsibilities and needs in Madison County. Upon taking office as Sheriff in 2005 my primary objective has been to elevate law enforcement presence through utilizing increased patrols, improving security for and services to residents and visitors, and ensuring officer safety. These goals were being accomplished through the addition of officers. During 2008, two full-time positions became vacant and were not replaced, as I anticipated the coming economic downturn and subsequent reduction of resources due to budgetary considerations. As a result, a detective was reassigned to patrol in order to maintain acceptable coverage.

**2009 Budget:** In establishing appropriations for the 2009 budget, the Commissioners have determined each office must accept a reduction in funding by 11.6% of their actual expenses during the year of 2008. For the Sheriff's Office this represents a reduction of \$203,000.00 below last year's actual expenses.

The budget originally proposed for 2009 included filling only one of the two vacant positions and a 3% wage increase as provided for in our Fraternal Order of Police contract. Taking these planned expenditures into account, the final budget appropriation established by the Commissioners results in a 15.4% cut or a \$288,000.00 reduction in requested funds.

**Required Action:** In order to comply with the level of appropriated funds, I have implemented several changes. The two vacant full-time positions will remain unfilled, including the detective position. The regularly scheduled shifts of eight part-time officers have been eliminated, representing 4,655 annual man hours, or the equivalent of more than two full-time positions. One officer has been reassigned from patrol duties to communications. Overtime hours have been reduced by eliminating the replacement of many shifts left open due to vacation or illness. All of the vacancies described will be absorbed by the remaining staff. I will also be implementing a reduction in programs, training and equipment.

The Sheriff's Office maintains other funds which are dedicated to and restricted by law for use on enhanced services or specialized programs. To the degree possible the Office will place additional reliance on these funds, although reliance to the extent necessitated by present circumstances cannot be an annual consideration.

Finally, all union, non-union and supervisory employees have opted to take a reduction in wages, returning to their 2008 pay rates. This action, without hesitation, speaks volumes about the dedication of service possessed by every member of this office. My personal appreciation and respect is extended to each of them and their families.

**In Conclusion:** Due to the necessary reductions discussed above, all services and programs will be affected. For purposes of comparison, consider that in 2005, patrol deputies handled 8,345 calls of service. In 2008, that number was over 11,000. The inevitable result is that fewer patrols, longer response times and prioritizing of responsibilities and requests will be commonplace. The effect of any potential uncontrollable or unforeseen expenses, extended illnesses or injuries on the part of the staff, change in fuel prices, or increase in criminal trends and resulting investigations remains to be seen. While over the past few years we have increased our services, security and safety, we now find ourselves at concerning levels of funding and staff of years past with an increased demand.

Each Madison County official is currently facing the same consideration in the performance of their core functions and statutory duties. In light of the funding shortfalls being confronted by county government, responsibilities must be prioritized, nonessential expenses must be reviewed and limited and alternative funding considerations must be made to ensure that these basic services are adequately provided to the citizens of Madison County.

The Madison County Sheriff's Office will continue to be your first responders and pledges to provide the front line of defense to any threat to our community.